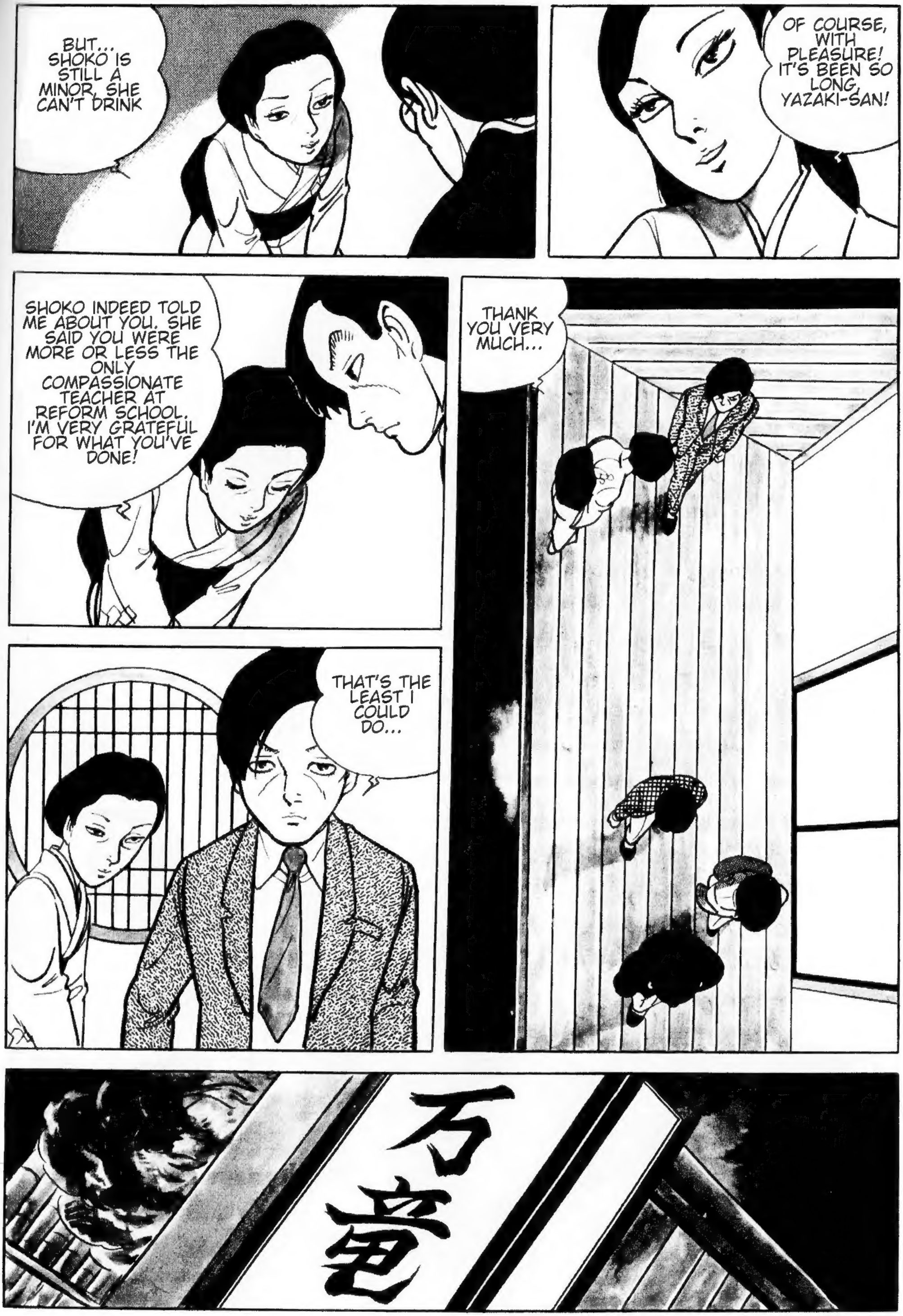
AH! MY BEAUTIFUL SHOKO IS FINALLY HERE!
SHOKO TAKANO...
COME OVER HERE! QUICK, COME!
WELCOME TANIYAMA -SAN

OH, YOU KNOW HIM?
...
...SHOKO-KUN!!
YOU'RE REALLY YAZAKI-SENSEI?! SLUG-MAN?!
YAZAKI-SAN!
YEAH... YEAH, THAT'S ME! YAZAKI! SLUG-MAN! GOD, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
SLUG-MAN? SHOKO, YOU'RE TALKING WITH THE RECIPIENT OF THE XX LITERARY AWARD, WATCH YOUR TONGUE!
HUH? AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE? AND IT LOOKS LIKE THIS DATES BACK A WHILE, YAZAKI-KUN! SHOKO MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY YOUNG GIRL, THAT'S REASSURING! HOW DO YOU KNOW HER?
WELL, TANIYAMA-SAN, I...
I USED TO BE A SCHOOL TEACHER AND SHOKO WAS ONE OF MY STUDENTS...

AH, THAT'S STRANGE... IN YOUR NOVEL, *FIRES ON THE LAKE*, THE PROTAGONIST WHO REMINDS ME OF YOU IS A TEACHER IN A BOARDING SCHOOL... OR WAS IS A REFORM SCHOOL FOR MINORS?
AH... I TOOK LIBERTIES SO IT'D BE MORE INTERESTING. I WAS A TEACHER IN THE MOST NORMAL SCHOOL YOU COULD IMAGINE... MY ENCOUNTER WITH SHOKO TAKANO IS MAYBE THE ONLY INTERESTING THING THAT HAPPENED THERE!
HEHEHE!
AH, I SEE! AND YOUR NICKNAME AT THE TIME WAS "SLUG-MAN"! HAHAHA!
HIHIHI!
WELL THANKS TO YAZAKI-KUN, I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO INVITE SHOKO-CHAN TO OUR NEXT NIGHT OUT! RIGHT, SHOKO-CHAN? IT'S ALRIGHT, OWNER?


BUT... SHOKO IS STILL A MINOR, SHE CAN'T DRINK
OF COURSE, WITH PLEASURE! IT'S BEEN SO LONG, YAZAKI-SAN!
SHOKO INDEED TOLD ME ABOUT YOU. SHE SAID YOU WERE MORE OR LESS THE ONLY COMPASSIONATE TEACHER AT REFORM SCHOOL. I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
THAT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO...
万竜

HEY SHOKO-CHAN, YOU'D LIKE TO DANCE WITH ME? I'M NOT A BAD DANCER, YOU KNOW!
BUT I'M NOT SURE I'M SKILLED ENOUGH TO FOLLOW YOUR MOVES, TANIYAMA-SAN
BRRRRRRM
TO GINZA!
HEHEHE! MY HEART'S BEATING LIKE A BUMBLEBEE! I FEEL ALIVE AGAIN WHEN I'M WITH YOU, SHOKO-CHAN!

TARIII
TA-TA-TARAAA
TARIII

OH! MR EDITOR!?
YOU SHOULDN'T LOOK AT HER LIKE THIS, YAZAKI-SAN...

AS TANIYAMA-SAN HIMSELF CONFESSED, HE'S INFATUATED WITH THE BANRYU'S ADOPTIVE DAUGHTER. YOU ENTERED THE LITERARY THANKS TO HIM. YOU WON THAT PRIZE THANKS TO HIM
IN THE LITERARY WORLD, IT'S ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS. AND OF COURSE AGE ALSO TAKES PRECEDENCE. JUST A PIECE OF ADVICE TO A YOUNG PROMISING AUTHOR
I CAN TELL YOU FROM EXPERIENCE AS A LONG-TIME EDITOR THAT, WHILE WRITERS LOVE TO WRITE ABOUT LIFE'S COMPLEX SITUATIONS, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY HAVE A COMPLEX LIFE OR A COMPLEX NATURE. THEY'RE OFTEN SIMPLER THAN NORMAL PEOPLE, AND CAN HAVE VERY IMMATURE BEHAVIORS
AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T LOOK AT HER?
YOU SHOULD KNOW I'M A WASHED-UP AUTHOR WHO ONLY WROTE THREE SHORT STORIES. HE'S A POPULAR AUTHOR OF CORNY EROTICA, HE'S GOT A KEEN EYE
THAT WASN'T BALLET, THAT'S FOR SURE! HAHAHA!
MY! YOU'RE A GREAT DANCER, TANIYAMA-SENSEI!
...

HE WAS MY FIRST LOVE, YOU KNOW!
UMM... NO, IT'S...
I'D PREFER DANCING WITH YAZAKI-SAN FIRST!
COME ON, GRAB A DRINK, SHOKO-CHAN! WHAT ABOUT A WHISKEY & COKE?
HEY! STILL A BIG FAT LIMP SLUG BY THE LOOKS OF IT!
"UMM... NO, IT'S"
COME ON, LET'S DANCE!

I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER!
TH-THANKS ...
CONGRATS ON YOUR AWARD!
YOUR ENERGY, YOUR PRIDE, YOUR PASSIONATE AND SAVAGE NATURE, ALL OF YOU HAS SET MY SLUG LIFE ON FIRE. WITHOUT YOU, NOBODY WOULD HAVE EVER NOTICED MY EXISTENCE. I'M NOT EVEN JEALOUS OF TANIYAMA ANYMORE
THAT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU!
I PUSHED MYSELF TO LEARN HOW TO DANCE TO SHAKE OFF THE "SLUG" IMAGE! ALL THANKS TO YOU ONCE AGAIN!
OH! YOU'RE A WAY BETTER DANCER THAN YOU LOOK!

I'M DRUNK, I COULD PASS OUT ANY MOMENT NOW. AND IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF THE COGNAC, IT'S BECAUSE OF HER EYES!
THE AMBIGUOUS RELATIONSHIP I HAD AT THE TIME WITH SHOKO TAKANO WAS, TO BE BLUNT, THE MAIN INSPIRATION FOR MY NOVEL AND IT STILL FUELS ME TO THIS DAY
HEY! TANIYAMA-SAN, EDITOR-SAN! I HAVE SOMETHING TO CONFESS
HE'S DOWN FOR THE COUNT...

POSTPONED ?!
THEY'VE POSTPONED THE RELEASE OF MY NOVEL?! IS... IS MY BOOK REALLY THAT BAD?
OF COURSE NOT... YOU'VE JUST WON THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY AWARD. IT WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED FOR ME TO CRITICIZE YOU
THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF WAS ALSO MORE THAN PLEASED BY YOUR NOVEL, BUT...
BUT WHAT?
I'VE RECEIVED AN UNUSUAL REQUEST FROM TANIYAMA-SAN
HUH?
TANIYAMA-SAN DISCOVERED YOU, TOOK YOU UNDER HIS WING, MADE YOU INTO A SUCCESSFUL WRITER, EVEN HELPED YOU GET THE AWARD. THEREFORE, HE INSISTED IT WAS HIS DUTY TO PROOFREAD YOUR FIRST NOVEL ONE LAST TIME BEFORE ITS PUBLICATION

HE'S EXAGGERATING! JUST BECAUSE HE HAS A GREAT INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD OF EDITING DOESN'T MEAN OUR EDITOR HAS TO BOW DOWN TO HIM!
S-SO?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE EDITOR WARNED ME WOULD HAPPEN. TANAYIMA IS TRYING TO PUSH ME AROUND
I HADN'T GOTTEN ANY NEWS SINCE I SENT HIM THE NOVEL, SO I CONTACTED HIM AGAIN AND HE SAID HE WAS CURRENTLY TOO BUSY TO READ IT. AND NOW WE'RE TOO LATE TO PUBLISH IT IN THE MAGAZINE'S NEXT ISSUE
HIS LUST FOR YOUNG GIRLS IS UNHEALTHY! HE HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED THESE RIDICULOUS GAMES, BUT THE PAST FEW YEARS ESPECIALLY, HE'S BEEN COMPLETELY UNABLE TO RESIST THESE PERVERTED RELATIONSHIPS
I HEARD HE'S ENAMOURED WITH THE ADOPTIVE DAUGHTER OF AN AKASAKA RESTAURANT'S OWNER BUT THAT YOU'VE CATCHED HER FANCY, AM I RIGHT?
WELL... NOW YOU WON'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME! WE'LL DO OUR BEST SO THAT YOU'RE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
IF I DO SOMETHING WRONG, MY LITERARY CAREER'S DOWN THE DRAIN! I WENT TOO FAR THE OTHER NIGHT. I SHOULD APOLOGIZE...

!
HELLO, YAZAKI? IT'S SHOKO!
HUM... YES... YES IT'S ME...
I'M SO HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO YOU! WOULD YOU LIKE TO DINE TOGETHER?
7:00 PM IN THE HOTEL LOBBY, WOULD THAT BE ALRIGHT WITH YOU?
W-WELL...
OH, ARE YOU BUSY?
N-NO... I'LL BE THERE AT SEVEN...
TANIYAMA-SAN IS A REGULAR AT THE BANRYU... EVEN IF I TOLD SHOKO TO KEEP HER MOUTH SHUT, HE WOULD HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP SOONER OR LATER. I CAN BID FAREWELL TO ANY FUTURE AWARDS!
WAS IT VILLIERS DE L'ISLE-ADAM WHO SAID "WOMAN'S TRUE BEAUTY MUST DESTROY A MAN IN THE SAME MANNER A CONSPIRACY WOULD"? OR WAS IT STENDHAL?

YOU'RE GORGE- OUS...
THANK YOU...
I COULD TELL SHOKO ABOUT TANIYAMA'S REACTION AND SEE WHAT SHE THINKS OF IT. OR MAYBE I'M EXAGGERATING? MAYBE IT WAS JUST A NORMAL STUDENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP AFTER ALL...
I'M AFRAID OF PAIN TOO, YOU KNOW...

SHOKO-KUN, THE TRUTH IS...
PLEASE STOP CALLING ME SHOKO-KUN, SENSEI. IT'S KILLING THE MOOD!
YOU CAN CALL ME SHOKO!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU
IF IT'S IMPORTANT... LET'S GO SOMEPLACE ELSE
I'VE BOOKED A ROOM IN THIS HOTEL

A SHOWA ERA WOMAN

BY IKKI KAJIWARA &
KAZUO KAMIMURA

TRANSLATION BY
COQUELICOTSCANS
@COQUELICOTSCANS

COQUELICOTSCANS DOES NOT CONDONE OR ENDORSE THE CONTENT AND LANGUAGE DEPICTED IN THIS MANGA. HOWEVER, WE ASSURE YOU THAT NO SENSITIVE TOPICS WERE ALTERED OR CENSORED, FOR THE SAKE OF ACCURACY TO THE ORIGINAL WORK